



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

# NEWS

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## **Governor Quinn Announces More Than \$270 Million in Capital Funds for School Districts Statewide**

*Funding Includes More Than \$29 Million for Updates and Expansions at Central Illinois Schools*

SPRINGFIELD – October 20, 2010. Governor Pat Quinn today announced that 18 Illinois school districts statewide will receive a total of more than \$270 million from *Illinois Jobs Now!* to construct new buildings or expand existing ones. This capital funding will provide vital classroom space while creating approximately 3,700 construction jobs statewide. Schools in central Illinois will receive more than \$29 million.

“This capital funding will help school districts in central Illinois and across the state update their facilities and make critical repairs,” said Governor Quinn. “We must invest in schools that will allow Illinois’ students to thrive and create a better future for our state.”

In central Illinois, Gillespie Community Unit School District 7 will receive over \$18.9 million to replace the Benld Elementary School, which was condemned due to mine subsidence. The Warrensburg-Latham Community Unit School District 11 will receive over \$10.3 million for classroom additions.

The 18 districts statewide were approved for the state funding in fiscal year 2010 after their projects were certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB).

The funding will allow districts to build new schools and classroom additions. Other improvements will include renovations to existing classrooms and upgrades to aging facilities. The grants will also allow several districts to recover from damage resulting from natural disasters, including flooding. The capital funding, combined with local dollars, will allow school districts to start projects totaling more than \$527.7 million.

“As leaders, one of our most important responsibilities is to making sure our children have the resources they need to get quality educations,” said Sen. Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville). “This funding will allow us to finally replace the condemned Benld Elementary School. One of the best investments the state can make is in our children’s education and I appreciate the opportunity to partner with Governor Quinn to improve our schools.”

“These capital funds will improve the educational environment at school districts across Illinois, while creating badly-needed construction jobs and training our future workers while helping our current ones.” said CDB Executive Director Jim Riemer.

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"This funding will provide much-needed improvements, which the local districts would not otherwise be able to afford," said State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch." Most of these districts have waited years for the funds, and hopefully now they'll be able to get these projects underway and have students learning in new schools soon."

Before the passage of Governor Quinn's *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction program, Illinois had not had a major capital construction program in more than a decade.

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